consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations.

Jurisdiction of New Railway Zones

426. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has decided to establish two new Zonal Railways and to redraw the jurisdiction of five more new zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the amount of investment involved in the move;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this step has been opposed by all the senior officials, the employees unions of the affected Railways and by the professional consultant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Not only two, but seven new zones are being established out of the existing zones. As a result thereof, the jurisdictions of all the Zonal Railways, except North-east Frontier Railway, are being redrawn.

(b) The details of jurisdictions zone-wise and their dates of operationalisation are given as under:

Sl. No.	Railway	Area of Jurisdiction	Date of operationalisation
1.	East Central Railway, Hajipur	• Sonpur and Samastipur Divisions of North Eastern Railway.	01.10.2002
	Notified on 14.06.2002	• Danapur, Mughalsarai and Dhanbad Divisions of Eastern Railway.	
	North Western Railway, Jaipur	• Bikaner and Jodhpur Divisions of Northern Railway.	01.10.2002

Sl. No.	Railway	Area of Jurisdiction	Date of operationalisation
	Notified on 14.06.2002	• Jaipur and Ajmer Divisions of Western Railway.	
3.	East Coast Railway Bhubaneswar	• Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur Divisions of South Eastern Railway	01.04.2003
	Notified on 04.07.2002		
4.	South Western Railway, Hubli	• Bangalore and Mysore Divisions of Southern Railway.	01.04.2003
	Notified on 04.07.2002	• Hubli Division of South Central Railway	
5.	West Central Railway, Jabalpur	• Jabalpur and Bhopal Divisions of Central Railways	01.05.2003
	Notified on 04.07.2002	• Kota Division of Western Railway	
6.	North Central Railway, Allahabad	• Allahabad Division of Northern Railway	01.04.2003
	Notified on 04.07.2002	• Jhansi Division of Central Railway • Agra Division (New)	
7.	South East Central Railway, Bilaspur	• Nagpur and Bilaspur Divisions of South Eastern Railway	01.04.2003
	Notified on 04.07.2002	• Raipur Division (New)	

The anticipated cost to set up seven new zones is around Rs. 600 crore.

(c) and (d) Some opposition has been voiced from various quarters from time to time. However, after issue of notification, there is no formal

communication received from the federations. No professional consultants are available for purpose of reorganisation of zones. The Government does not agree with their views.

Modernisation of rail lines connecting four metros

427. SHRI RAM MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is thinking of modernising all the rail lines, connecting all the four metros, in the coming five years with an estimated cost of Rs. 10,000/- crores;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the routes that are going to be taken up in the South Central and the South Eastern Railway Zones in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Railways (MoR) have decided to strengthen the Golden Quardilateral and its Diagonals which forms the High Density Network (HDN) and is saturated in most parts. The Golden Quadrilateral connects the four metro cities, *i.e.* Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. The strengthening of this route will be done by laying of additional lines, improvement in terminals, electrification of selected sections and raising the speed of freight trains up to 100 kmph thus reducing the speed differential between Mail/Express trains and freight trains.

Some of the sub-projects of this programme were already sanctioned and work on these components is in progress. The sanctioned cost of these projects is approx. Rs. 1800 crores. In addition, new sub-projects have been identified for sanction. The total cost of this programme is yet to be finalized, however it is expected to be in the range of Rs. 8000 crores.

(c) the Chennai-Howrah, Chennai-Mumbai and Chennai-Delhi routes will have a part of the route passing through Andhra Prarẹsh.